

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Austria Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

August 1988

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

C/Ops

29 Sep

R. J. [initials]

2.

3.

C/E&PS

10/3

L

4.

DD/FBIS

3 Oct

B

5.

D/FBIS

R

6.

7.

PO/RA

10/3

Am

8.

SA/CD

3 Oct

CD

9.

C/PERS

10/7

sh

10.

C/AS

11.

C/B&F/AS

10/11

y

12.

SO

10/11

RMA

13.

14.

C/AG

12/11

m

15.

Exec. Reg.

7 September 1988

FBIS-3015-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
FROM : Chief, Austria Bureau
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Austria Bureau - August 1988

I. GENERAL

The dollar continued to make year-end budget balancing a bit easier as it averaged 13.19 Austrian schillings to one dollar in August (up from 12.85 to 1 in July), hitting a high of A.S. 13.479 during the month.

II. OPERATIONAL

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Although August was a generally quiet month, the lengthy period of labor unrest in Poland, continuing tensions in Yugoslavia, and the ongoing and increasing differences between Hungary and Romania over the latter's plans to raze a large number of farm villages combined to maintain the bureau's production at a respectable level. In addition, a live relay of the ceremony on Romania's national day as well as reportage on the meeting between Romanian leader Ceausescu and Hungary's Grosz occasioned special staffing and coverage arrangements.

2. At the beginning of the month it was discovered that only half of DPA's combined European service (Euro-service and Bavarian service) was being received at the bureau. The AUSTRIAN PRESS AGENCY, through which the DPA service is contracted, was contacted and quickly and apologetically corrected the oversight.

3. In a rather unusual application of Bureau linguistic resources Chief Monitor [redacted] of the German Section assisted a near hysterical young lady calling the Embassy from Las Vegas, Nevada, in an effort to contact the family of her husband who were residents of a small town in southern Austria. The husband apparently

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had been killed that day and the caller was seeking someone to translate for her in a three-way conversation with the parents. The call was passed through to the Bureau since the Embassy and Consulate were closed at the time. Although it was not possible to arrange the three-way conversation, we were able to pass on a message to the parents, although with some difficulty because of the difficult Tirolian dialect which they spoke.

B. Communications

AU's primary circuit suffered nine outages for a total of 20 hours during August. There was no single major problem area, with various links and segments suffering unrelated failures.

C. Lateral Services

Senior embassy personnel expressed appreciation for being quickly informed -- based on the Bureau's AFP file -- of the plane crash in Pakistan that claimed the lives of Pakistani President Ziaul Haq and U.S. Ambassador Raphel, who was a personal friend of DCM Michael Habib.

D. Technical

1. The latest version (1.1) of LAN software was finally received from Headquarters and installed. Also received and installed during the month were two HP Ruggedwriter dot matrix printers, which will replace the laser printers now being used on the system.

2. The following equipment was received in August:

Two HP2235A RW480 Ruggedwriter printers.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Staff Engineer [] and family arrived PCS Vienna 1 August, completing the summer staff turnover.

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2. The increasingly favorable dollar-schilling exchange rate caused living quarters allowances to decrease again in August.

3. The Embassy announced on 29 August that approval had been received from the Department of State to immediately initiate a contract with a local insurance carrier, GENERALI/Aetna, to establish an FSN

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supplemental pension plan. Details of the plan, which will be available to all Embassy local employees, full-time and part-time, have not yet been announced. There also is some uncertainty as to how the plan will be funded.

4. Hungarian monitor-trainee [] and family departed Vienna 4 August to return to Tel Aviv following his resignation.

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5. Newly arrived staff editor [] received a well-deserved promotion to GS-11/02 effective 14 August.

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6. Also promoted was Albanian monitor [] to FBN-09/02, effective 28 August.

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7. Quality Step Increases were awarded to German monitors [] (to FBN-09/02) and [] (to FBN-08/02) and to Czech/Slovak monitor [] (to FBN-10/09) all effective 28 August.

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8. Periodic Step Increases were received by Associate Editor [] (to FBN-10/04) and Communications Operator [] (to FBN-06/07) effective 14 August.

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IV. VISITS

[] of ADD, GE contractor [] and LEC contractor [] completed visits begun in late July on 5, 7 and 8 August respectively. [] on contract to ESG, visited the Bureau 11-16 August to conduct a power survey. The new FBIS security officer was at the Bureau 18-23 August for orientation. [] stopped by the Bureau 12 August for orientation. Mr. Joe Snyder, newly arrived Embassy political officer, received a Bureau orientation 25 August. C/FED [] and 3M contractor [] visited 27 August to 1 September.

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[]
Chief, Austria Bureau

cc: Chief, FBIS London Bureau

Attachments:

Production Report
Staff Personnel Report
Non-Staff Personnel Report